

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 15, as follows:

Fig. 1 shows the amino acid (DNA) sequence of a fusion polypeptide H-IL-6 according to the invention. Sequences for the restriction enzyme SaII (SEQ ID NO:17) (GTCGAC), the signal peptide (SEQ ID NO.: 14) (MLAVGCALLAALLAAPGAA) and the linker (SEQ ID NO.: 15) (RGGGGSGGGGSGGGGSVE) are indicated. The linker links the COOH terminus of human sIL-6R with the NH₂ terminus of human IL-6.

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 22, as follows:

Fig. 2 shows the amino acid (DNA) sequence of a fusion polypeptide H-IL-6 according to the invention. Sequences for the restriction enzyme SaII (SEQ ID NO:17) (GTCGAC), the signal peptide (SEQ ID NO.: 14) (MLAVGCALLAALLAAPGAA) and the linker (SEQ ID NO.: 16) (RGGGGSGGGGSGGGGSVE) are indicated. The linker links the COOH terminus of human sIL-6R with the NH₂ terminus of human IL-6.